

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Evaluation of Existing Marine Protected Areas and Round 2 Draft MPA
Proposals Relative to MLPA Goal 3
July 16, 2010

California Marine Life Protection Act, Goal 3:

“To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.” (Subsection 2853(b)(3), California Fish and Game Code)

Background

In the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) North Coast Study Region (NCSR), the MLPA Goal 3 guidance and evaluation methods were assessed and slightly modified to better align with evaluations conducted by two state agencies, the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. After public review and comment on the Goal 3 guidance document titled, *Draft Guidelines to Assist Stakeholders in Addressing Goal 3 of the Marine Life Protection Act in the MLPA North Coast Study Region*, the document was finalized in May.

The Goal 3 guidance is not inconsistent with how it has been addressed in previous study regions, though it does refine the guidance and specifically outlines key considerations when designing marine protected areas (MPAs) relative to Goal 3. According to the guidance document, MPA proposals will be considered to adequately address Goal 3 if each of the three Goal 3 elements (recreational, educational, and study opportunities) are improved in at least one MPA in each of the two bioregions in the NCSR.

Goal 3 was not evaluated in Round 1 of the MLPA North Coast Project due to the effort to refine the methods. As a result, Round 2 was the first opportunity to conduct the modified Goal 3 evaluation. Staff evaluated the following proposals relative to Goal 3:

- Existing MPAs - Proposal 0 (P0)
- Ruby Draft MPA Proposal 1 (Ruby 1)
- Ruby Draft MPA Proposal 2 (Ruby 2)
- Sapphire Draft MPA Proposal 1 (Sapphire 1)
- Sapphire Draft MPA Proposal 2 (Sapphire 2)

This document summarizes the results of the Goal 3 evaluation and provides feedback on how draft MPA proposals can better address Goal 3 in the development of Round 3 MPA proposals.

Summary

Overall, the draft MPA proposals included a large number of MPAs that improve one or more elements of Goal 3. For the review of the northern bioregion, most proposals only addressed

two of the three elements (recreational and study); Sapphire 1 was the only proposal to also address educational opportunities. In the southern bioregion, all four draft MPA proposals met the Goal 3 guidance to address the three elements with at least one MPA that improved recreational, educational and study opportunities. While Sapphire 1 is the only Round 2 draft MPA proposal to fully meet the Goal 3 guidelines, the other three draft MPA proposals performed relatively well. Those proposals could meet the Goal 3 guidelines by addressing educational opportunities in the northern bioregion. MPAs in Humboldt Bay were not identified by the Ruby and Sapphire work groups as Goal 3 MPAs, but these do fulfill the Goal 3 criteria and would address educational opportunities. Proposal 0 meets the Goal 3 guidelines in the southern bioregion, though since there are no existing MPAs in the northern bioregion, it does not improve any Goal 3 elements there.

Ruby 1

Ruby 1 has 14 Goal 3 MPAs; 5 in the northern bioregion and 9 in the southern bioregion (see Table 1 and Map 1). Overall, the draft proposal does improve Goal 3 elements, but it lacks an MPA improving educational opportunities in the northern bioregion. Point St. George Reef State marine Conservation Area (SMCA) was listed as improving educational opportunities, but it lacked sufficient justification as to how this MPA would improve educational opportunities and due to distance from shore, staff found no obvious ways in which it would. Therefore, Point St. George Reef SMCA was not included as improving educational opportunities. Two MPAs that could potentially improve educational opportunities in Ruby 1 are the North Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA) and South Humboldt Bay SMRMA; if one or both of these MPAs were noted as a Goal 3 MPA, and provided a clear rationale as to how they contribute to Goal 3, the proposal would meet the Goal 3 guidelines.

Table 1: List of MPAs Identified to Contribute to Goal 3 in Ruby 1

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Point St. George Reef SMCA	North			
False Klamath Cove SMCA	North			Yes
Reading Rock Nearshore SMCA	North	Yes		
Samoa SMCA	North	Yes		
South Cape Mendocino SMR	North			Yes
Mattole Canyon SMR	North			Yes
Petrolia Lighthouse SMR	South			Yes

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Ten Mile SMR/SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ten Mile Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		Yes
Mackerricher SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	
Point Cabrillo SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Gulch SMCA	South	Yes		
Big River Estuary SMP	South	Yes	Yes	
Van Damme SMCA	South	Yes		
Navarro River Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		

SMCA = state marine recreational management area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve

Ruby 2

Ruby 2 has seven Goal 3 MPAs; three in the northern bioregion and four in the southern bioregion (see Table 2 and Map 2). Overall, the proposal does improve Goal 3 elements, but it lacks an MPA improving educational opportunities in the northern bioregion. One MPA that could potentially improve educational opportunities in Ruby 2 is the South Humboldt Bay SMRMA if this MPA were noted as a Goal 3 MPA, and provided a clear rationale, the proposal would meet the Goal 3 guidelines.

Table 2: List of MPAs Identified to Contribute to Goal 3 in Ruby 2

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Pyramid Point SMR/SMCA	North	Yes		
South Cape Mendocino SMR	North			Yes
Mattole Canyon SMR	North			Yes
Petrolia Lighthouse SMR	South			Yes

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Ten Mile Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		Yes
Big River Estuary SMP	South	Yes	Yes	
Navarro River Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		

SMCA = state marine recreational management area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve

Sapphire 1

Sapphire 1 has 12 Goal 3 MPAs; 4 in the northern bioregion and 8 in the southern bioregion (see Table 3 and Map 3). Sapphire 1 identifies one MPA (Big Flat SMCA) as improving recreational opportunities; however it was not included in the Goal 3 evaluation because the site-specific rationale did not clearly state how that MPA improved those opportunities. Even without the inclusion of Big Flat SMCA, the proposal provides ample opportunities to improve all three elements of Goal 3 it is the only Round 2 draft MPA proposal to fully meet the Goal 3 guidelines by improving each of the Goal 3 elements in both of the NCSR bioregions.

Table 3: List of MPAs Identified to Contribute to Goal 3 in Sapphire 1

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Pyramid Point SMR/SMCA	North	Yes		
Wilson Rock SMCA	North			Yes
South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	North	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mattole Canyon Offshore SMR	North			Yes
Petrolia Lighthouse SMR	South			Yes
Big Flat SMCA	South			
Ten Mile SMR/SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ten Mile Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		Yes

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Mackerricher SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	
Point Cabrillo SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	Yes
Big River Estuary SMP	South	Yes	Yes	
Albion River Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		
Navarro River Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		

SMCA = state marine recreational management area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve

Sapphire 2

Sapphire 2 had nine Goal 3 MPAs; three in the northern bioregion and six in the southern bioregion (see Table 4 and Map 4). Sapphire 2 identified one MPA (Big Flat SMCA) as improving recreational opportunities; however it was not included in the Goal 3 evaluation because the site-specific rationale does not clearly state how that MPA improves those opportunities. Similar to Ruby 1 and Ruby 2, Sapphire 2 does address most of the Goal 3 guidelines but lacks an MPA to improve educational opportunities in the northern bioregion. One MPA that could potentially address that element in Sapphire 2 is the South Humboldt Bay SMRMA if this MPA were noted as a Goal 3 MPA, and provided a clear rationale, the proposal would meet the Goal 3 guidelines.

Table 4: List of MPAs Identified to Contribute to Goal 3 in Sapphire 2

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Pyramid Point SMCA	North	Yes		
Wilson Rock SMCA	North			Yes
Mattole Canyon Offshore SMR	North			Yes
Petrolia Lighthouse SMR	South			Yes
Big Flat SMCA	South			
Vizcaino SMCA	South			Yes

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Ten Mile SMR/SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ten Mile Estuary SMCA	South	Yes		Yes
Point Cabrillo SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	Yes
Big River Estuary SMP	South	Yes	Yes	

SMCA = state marine recreational management area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve

Proposal 0

Proposal 0 has five MPAs that could be considered to address Goal 3 (see Table 5 and Map 5). The existing MPAs address all three Goal 3 elements in the southern bioregion. However, Proposal 0 has no MPAs in the northern bioregion, so it does not address Goal 3 there.

Table 5: List of MPAs Found to Contribute to Goal 3 in Proposal 0

MPA	Bioregion	Recreational	Educational	Study
Punta Gorda SMR	South			Yes
Mackerricher SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	
Point Cabrillo SMCA	South	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Gulch SMCA	South	Yes		
Van Damme SMCA	South	Yes		

SMCA = state marine recreational management area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve

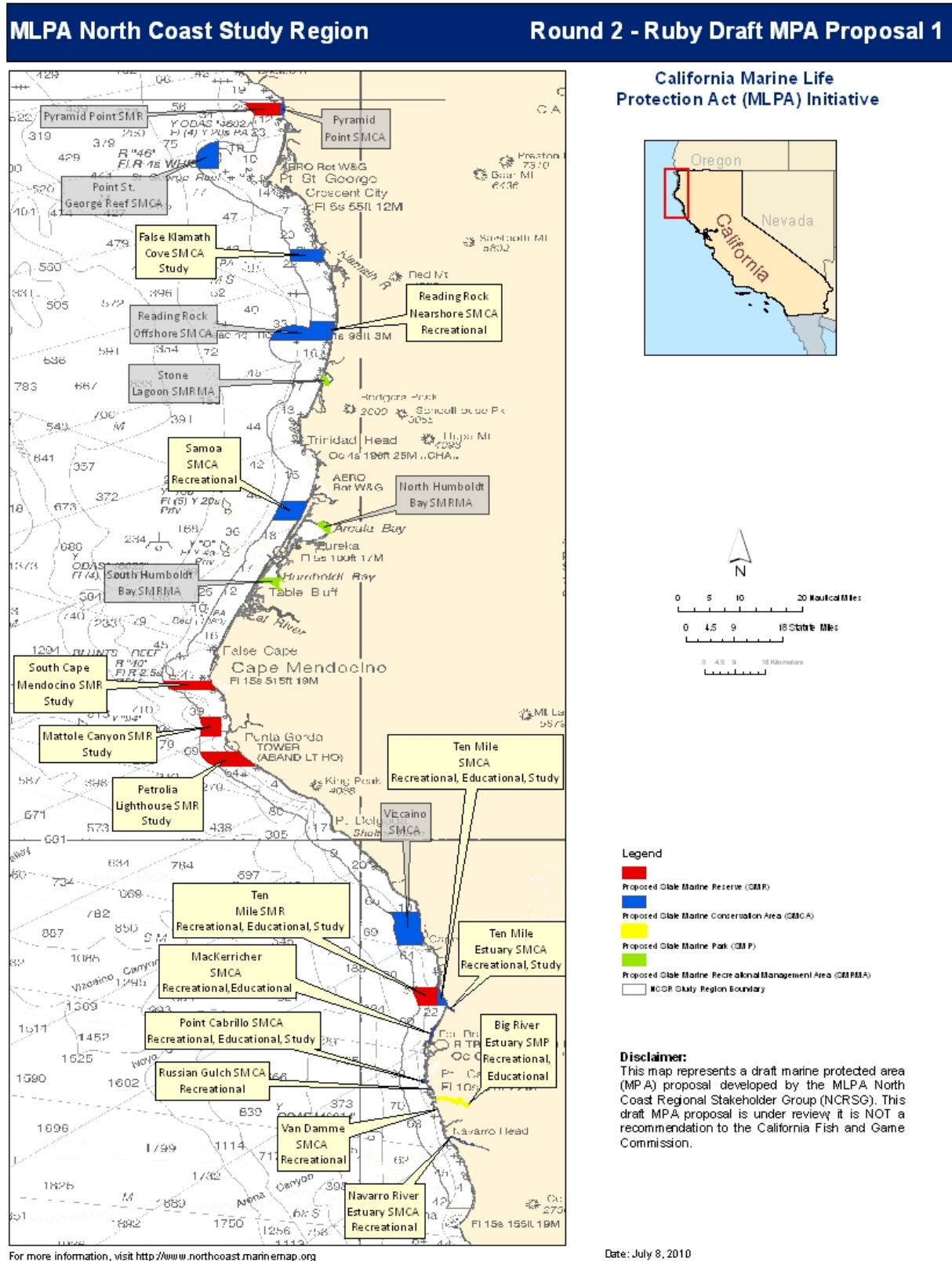
Conclusions

Overall, the Round 2 draft MPA proposals increase recreational, educational and study opportunities described in Goal 3. Ruby 1, Ruby 2, and Sapphire 2 do not identify an MPA that improves educational opportunities in the northern bioregion. Each of these proposals, however, contains at least one MPA that could address that element if those MPAs were

identified as Goal 3 MPAs, and provided clear rationale, the proposals would fully meet the guidelines.

For Round 3, the NCRSG should be very clear about which MPAs are contributing to Goal 3 and provide explicit justification in the “Site-Specific Rationale” or “Other Design Considerations” fields in MarineMap as to why that MPA should be considered as a Goal 3 MPA.

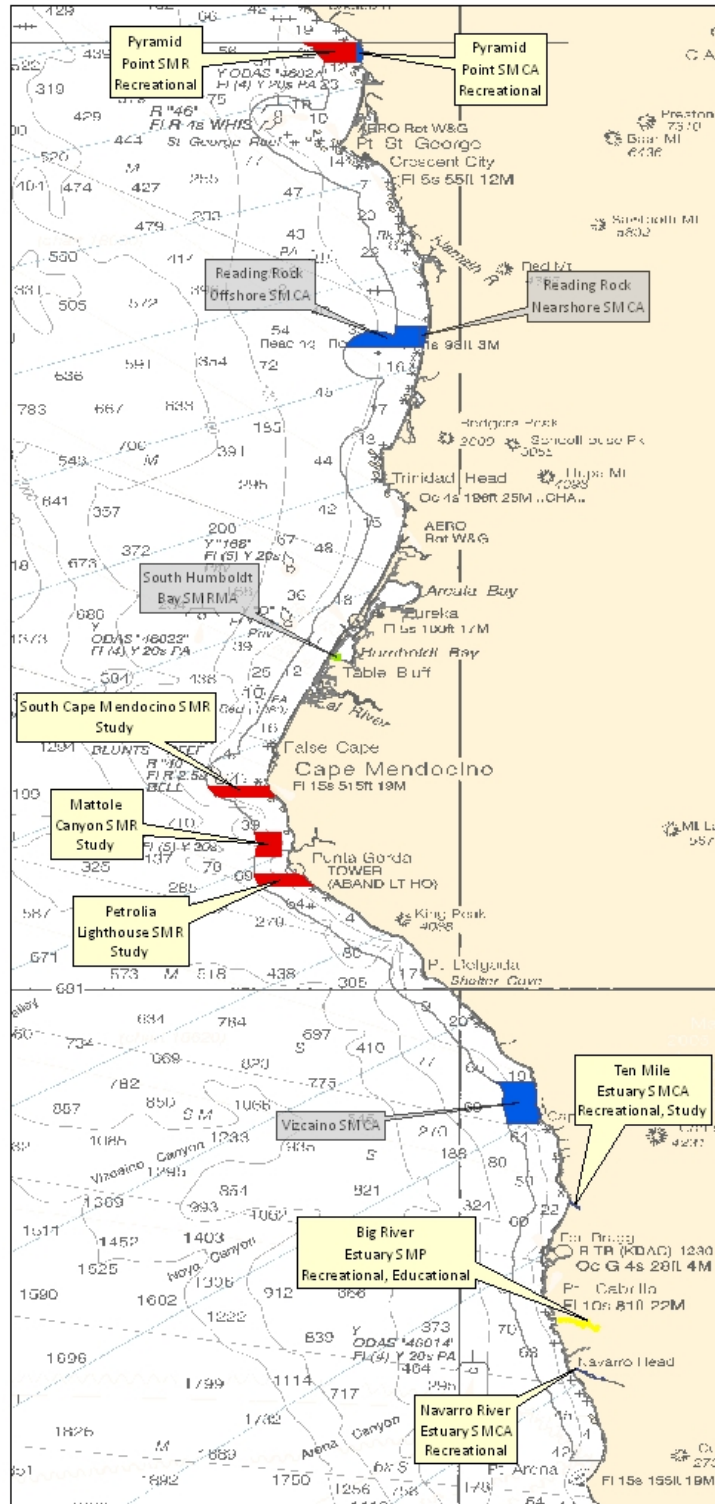
Map 1: Goal 3 MPAs Identified in Ruby Draft MPA Proposal 1



Map 2: Goal 3 MPAs Identified in Ruby Draft MPA Proposal 2

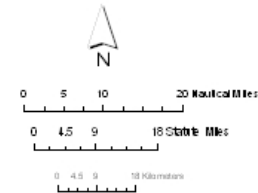
MLPA North Coast Study Region

Round 2 - Ruby Draft MPA Proposal 2



For more information, visit <http://www.northcoast.marinemap.org>

California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative



Legend

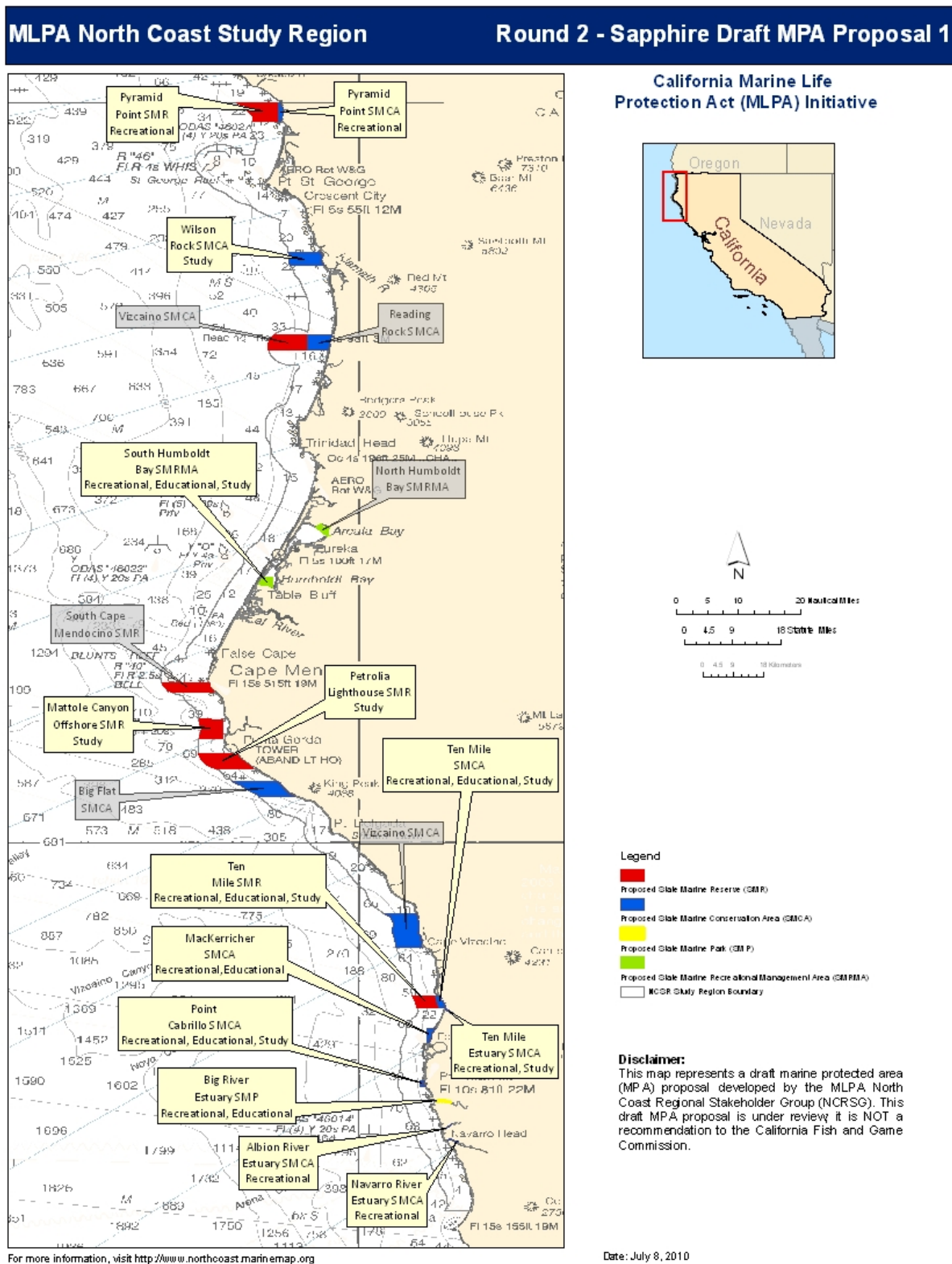
- Proposed State Marine Reserve (SMR)
- Proposed State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
- Proposed State Marine Park (SMP)
- Proposed State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)
- NCRSG Study Region Boundary

Disclaimer:

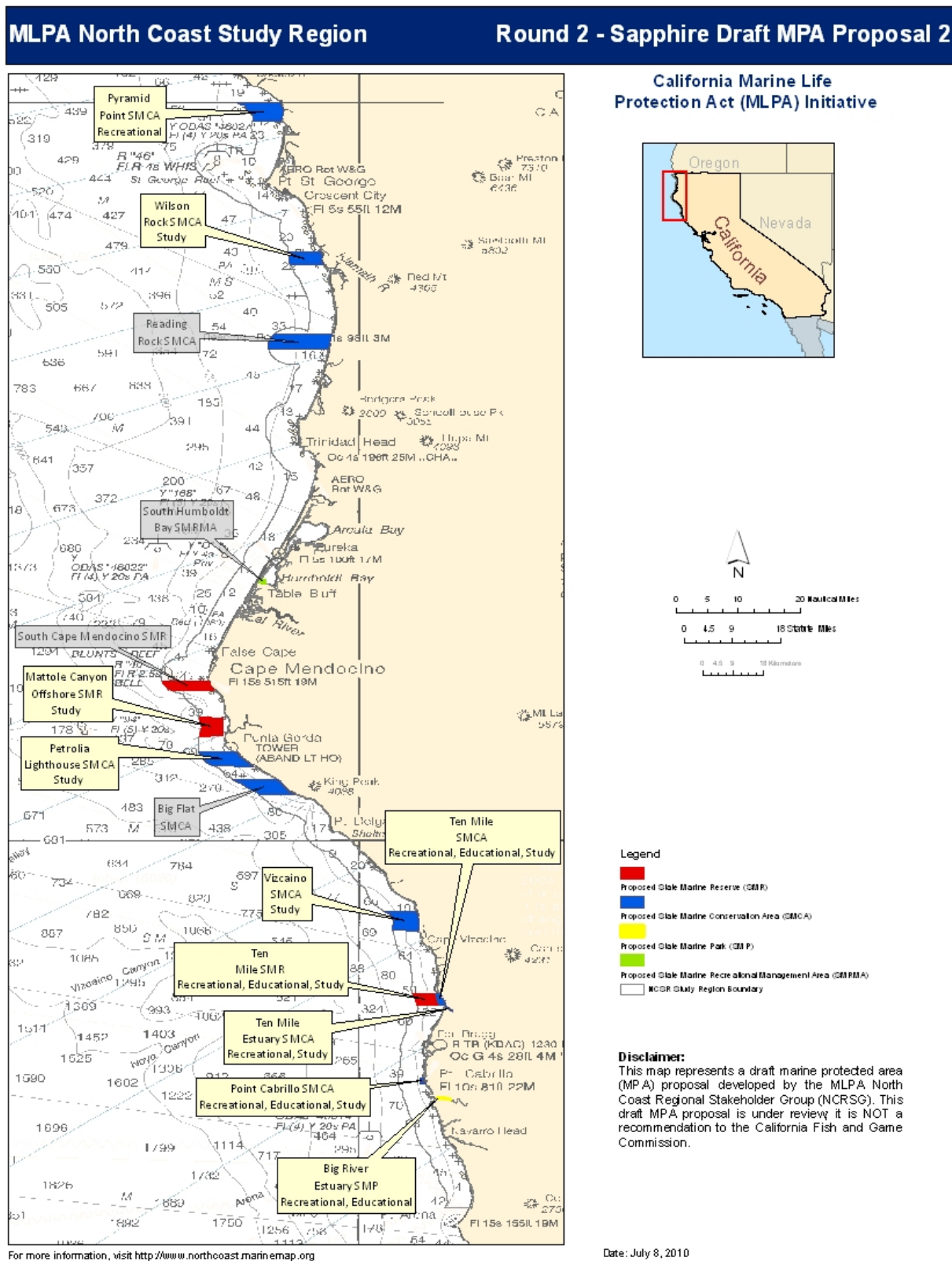
This map represents a draft marine protected area (MPA) proposal developed by the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG). This draft MPA proposal is under review; it is NOT a recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

Date: July 8, 2010

Map 3: Goal 3 MPAs Identified in Sapphire Draft MPA Proposal 1



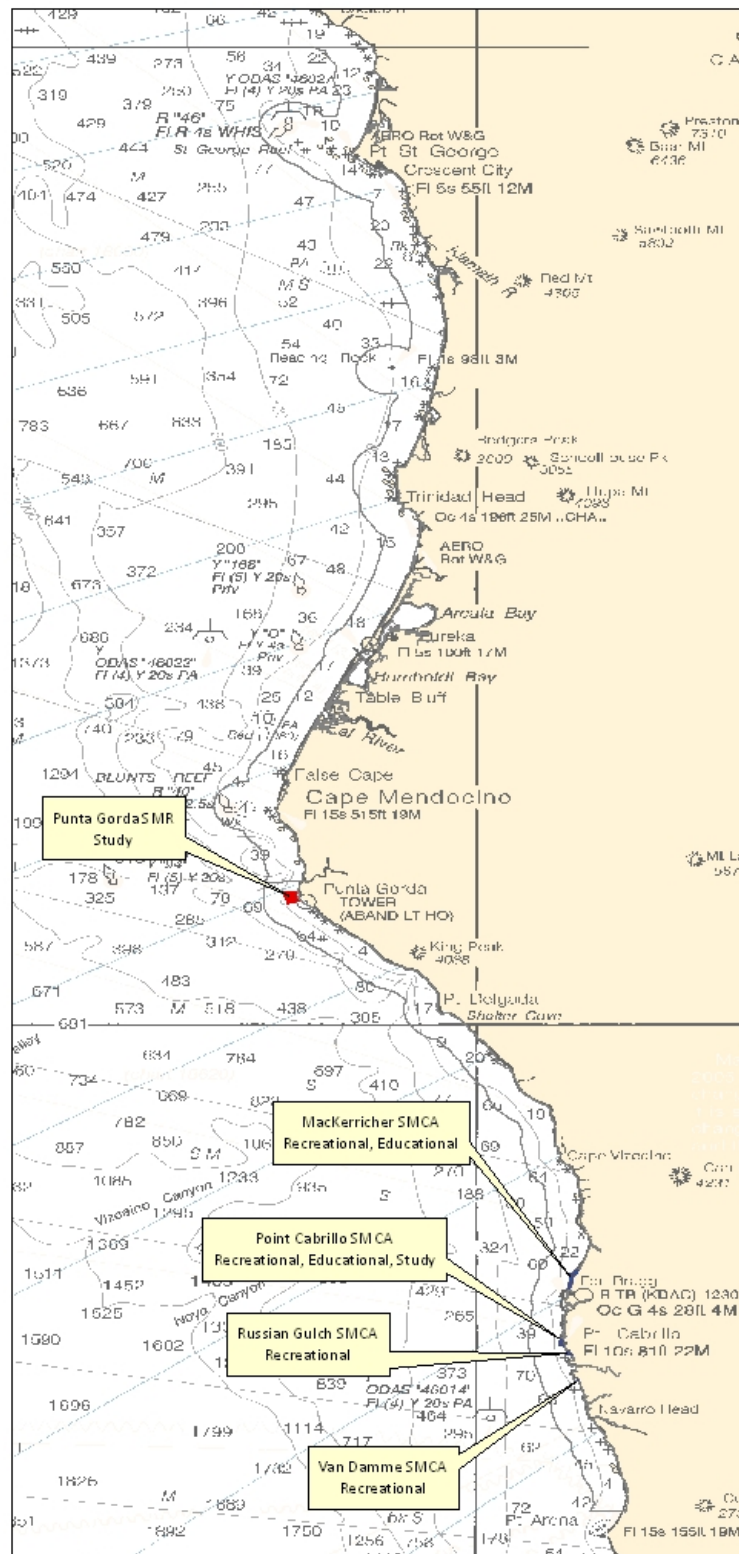
Map 4: Goal 3 MPAs Identified in Sapphire Draft MPA Proposal 2



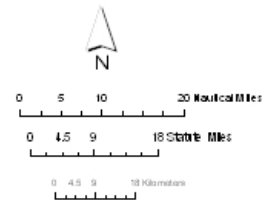
Map 5: Goal 3 MPAs Found in Proposal 0

MLPA North Coast Study Region

Round 2 - Existing MPA Proposal 0



California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative



Legend

- Proposed State Marine Reserve (SMR)
- Proposed State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
- Proposed State Marine Park (SMP)
- Proposed State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)
- NCRSG Study Region Boundary

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